

[New Mexico Business Weekly](#)

Friday, May 1, 2009

Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans can apply for new GI Bill benefits beginning today (May 1) that will take effect on August 1.

Last year, Congress enacted the GI Bill for the 21st Century to “restore the promise of a full, four-year college education for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.”

Vets can sign up for the benefits by visiting the [GI Bill Web site](#) .

U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Luján, D-NM, is making his congressional district offices available to those who do not have a reliable Internet connection.

“Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have an opportunity to receive significant education benefits under the new GI Bill,” said Luján. “I encourage them to apply for this program.”

Members of the military — including activated reservists and members of the National Guard — who have been honorably discharged, could receive up to four years of benefits.

To receive full benefits, vets must have served on active duty for three years. Those approved for the program will have up to 15 years after they have left active duty to use their education benefits.

The program will pay for:

- tuition and fees
- a monthly housing allowance
- an annual books and supplies stipend

For a list of Rep. Luján’s district offices, [click here](#) .